

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10234 220022Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 H-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 DLOS-09 AID-05 /092 W  
-----015300 220031Z /73

P 220002Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0985  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: US, PN, MX, SENV, TOCY, EWWT  
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON SEA LEVEL CANAL  
STUDY UPDATE

REF: STATE 156227

1. AS DEPT AWARE, THERE IS LONGSTANDING INTEREST ON PART OF GOM IN IMPROVING THE LAND TRANSPORT FACILITIES ACROSS TEHUANTEPEC. ROAD AND RAIL CURRENTLY CONNECT COATZA-COALCOS AND SALINA CRUZ - BUT PORT FACILITIES AND WATER DEPTHS ARE PROBABLY LIMITING. CONCERTED DEVELOPMENT APPLIED TO THESE AND TO ROAD AND/OR RAIL CONNECTIONS COULD MAKE THIS ROUTE A MORE IMPORTANT OPTION TO PANAMA OR FUTURE CANAL SHIPMENTS THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE.

2. WE HAVE SEEN NO MENTION IN ANY OF THIS OF ANY SERIOUS THOUGHT TO A TEHUANTEPEC CANAL. WE IMAGINE THAT LENGTH AND OTHER PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS ROUTE, ALONG  
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WITH MEXICAN HYPERSENSITIVITIES TO ANY PROJECT IN MEXICO INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT U.S. PARTICIPATION--MUCH LESS MAJORITY CONTROL--WOULD MAKE PROJECT VERY UNATTRACTIVE TO GOM WHICH, IF INTERESTED IN PURSUING, WOULD CERTAINLY WISH TO DO SO UNDER TOTAL NATIONAL CONTROL AND WITH INTER-NATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO USG FINANCING.

3. IT SEEMS LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT GOM WOULD BE UNCERTAIN REGARDING USG MOTIVES IN UPDATING 1970 STUDY, AND WOULD PROBABLY VIEW SUCH EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE PANAMA E.G. IN CENTRAL AMERICA OR COLOMBIA) WITH MILD HOSTILITY IN VIEW OF COMPETITION WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED TO ITS OWN TEHUANTEPEC PLANS. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW IDEA OF UPDATED STUDY WAS PRESENTED TO GOM AND ON DEGREE TO WHICH IT WAS PERCEIVED TO AFFECT MEXICO AND MEXICAN INTERESTS. CONCEIVABLY, IF A SEA-LEVEL CANAL WERE BUILT ELSEWHERE, MEXICO--IF IT DID NOT DEVELOP FACILITIES ACROSS TEHUANTEPEC--COULD FIND A CANAL HELPFUL IN FACILITATING EXPORT OF MEXICAN PETROLEUM VIA SUPER-TANKER TO THE OPPOSITE OCEAN - SOMETHING WHICH THE GOM, IN THE LONG TERM, SHOULD FIND OF GREAT INTEREST. WE WISH TO REITERATE, HOWEVER, THAT GOM, GIVEN ITS LONGSTANDING POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ABOUT U.S. JURISDICTIONAL CONTROL OVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY VIEW WITH GREAT DISFAVOR ANY USG ATTEMPT TO BUILD A SEA-LEVEL CANAL WHICH INVOLVED POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF U.S. CONTROL REMOTELY SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH HAVE PREVAILED IN PANAMA UNTIL THE RECENT RATIFICATION OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CANALS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780259-0633  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780631/aaaabakd.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 2c95bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 156227  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2248858  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON SEA LEVEL CANAL STUDY UPDATE  
**TAGS:** SENV, TOCY, EWWT, PGOV, US, PN, MX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/2c95bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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